Development (1934) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 1186

DATED 16th August 1934

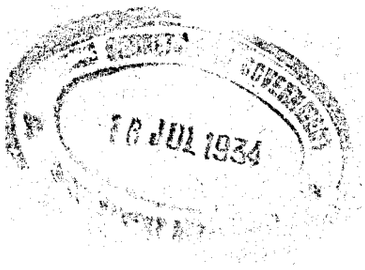
[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Resolutions
Forests - South Kanara D.C.
Withdrawal of concessions
Harold Mills - Enquiry - Appointment
of a Committee - Papers recorded

2	~~5-2-3u~~	5-2-3u

Law Dept. III-9—1,000—25-5-33.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE.



Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

SUBJECT—No. 20 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 193

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Resolution may be forwarded to the Dev Department. The Resolution has been admitted.

Dev. 17/7/34

17/7/34

U.O. No. , *dated*

To

The Dev Department

Resolution Council Office
16-7-34

Mr. A.B. Shetty

THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

20. This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee to enquire into the hardships caused to ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara.

A.R.S.

To Asst Secy

Please see the L.C. Resolution No. 20 at P. 2 ante, to be moved by Mr. A.B. Shetty A resolution on the restoration of the Forest Concessions in South Kanara was tabled by the same Hon. member for the meeting ~~held~~ held on 1-2-1934 but the resolution was not reached. Now he proposes to move a resolution for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the hardships caused by the withdrawal of the concessions in South Kanara. Suitable additions have been made to the note prepared on the last occasion and is submitted below for approval.

The case may be submitted to ~~Hon~~ H.M. for orders whether any further information should be collected ~~note is required~~. It is presumed that H.M. will take charge of the resolution.

(N) 1-2-34

P. 2 ante

No Ref 29/7 yes Ref

Mr's minute on para 3 P. 23 n/g
The file states the case mainly
case sent to me by the C.C.F.
contesting the alleged "hardships"
placed immediately below the N.F.
Note file.
C.A.H.
27.7.34.

A.M.G's Law

25.7.34.
26.7.34.

RR
26.7.34.

27/7

Please see my marginal notes
KCR
29.7.34

Please send the files back on the day previous to the meeting
KCR
29-7-34

4

To Secy

The resolution was not reached

The papers may be

G.O. Ms 1186 dt 16-8-34

"Recorded"

24/16/8

Abstract

Leg. Council - Resolution
- Forests - South Kanara Dt
+ withdrawal of concessions
- hardships - enquiry -
appt of a Committee -
papers recorded.

15-8-34

S.O.

15.8.34

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

(For the meeting to be held on the ~~1st February 1934~~ 1st August 1934.)

[SUBJECT.—*Forest—Concessions—South Kanara—~~Extinction~~.*] Withdrawal - hardships - enquiry - appointment of a committee.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—

> This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee to enquire into the hardships caused to ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara.

The following concessions were given to the ryots of the South Kanara district in 1922 by the Chief Conservator of Forests :—

(1) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings;

(2) in the reserves near the coast, the clearing of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings;

(3) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with Honea; and

(4) the free removal of—

(*a*) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species; and

(*b*) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

The then Conservator also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under 'Forest village system' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayat successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

2. Since then the concessions were abused by the ryots and the Forest officers recommended that they might be withdrawn. The following are extracts from some of the reports :—

> In his report on the working of the concessions for the year *1924–25*, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported in August 1925 that the concessions were *abused* in Kursegudde, Herur, Darlegudde, Mudaregudde, Kasankatte and Chittur reserves of Coondapoor range and in Todar and Hosabettu reserves of Mangalore range and opined that the continuance of the concessions demanded serious consideration, especially in the reserves of Coondapoor range. The Conservator then reported that it seemed advisable to withdraw the concessions in regard to the removal of green leaf in respect of the six reserves and to issue a general warning that the concessions would be withdrawn if abused again.

Mr. Shetty complained to Government in May 1928 that the Conservator warned the ryots that the concessions would be withdrawn if they continued to abuse the privileges. On this the Chief Conservator reported as follows :—

> The privileges were granted on the condition that they should not be abused. There is nothing improper in the warning issued by the Conservator, but it is disquieting to observe that the people already regard the conditional concessions made in the light of rights and that they do not recognize that they should observe the conditions.

In March 1929 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, stated: "The concessions have been abused to a very serious extent in Herur reserve and much abused in eleven other reserves, while two other reserves have suffered to some extent in patches. In removing green leaf a good percentage of the cutting has been at the expense of the reserved and classified species. Trees are hacked in such a way as to reduce them in size. Main stems sometimes up to 10 inches to 18 inches in girth are hacked off. The side branches and leaves are dropped and taken away as leaf manure and the large billets and sticks left to dry to be removed later as dry fuel."

During the season in which leaf manure, etc., is in demand, hundreds of women and girls, men and boys, swarm over the reserves starting their operations, often before daybreak. Perpetration of actual abuses can be detected only fortuitously, for the forest vegetation conceals what is going on and affords ample hiding room for those who, when illegally employed, are approached by the forest guard. The forest guard is sometimes afraid to approach the offenders lest he should get a thrashing.

In January 1930 the Chief Conservator reported: "All authorities are agreed that the grant of the concessions was ill-advised and short-sighted and although, by extending, from time to time, the period within which the concessions might be made use of and by repeated warnings, no effort has been spared to give the people every chance of showing that the concessions could be worked successfully, it has long been evident that they must be put an end to."

The Collector of South Kanara was of opinion that a clear case had been made out for the withdrawal of the concessions. The Government, however, on a consideration of the report issued orders in June 1930 that no change 'in the existing practice in respect of removal of green leaf manure from reserved forests is called for' and that 'the existing concessions in the matter of the clearance of the other classes of undergrowth should continue without modification.'

In June 1930 the Chief Conservator reported that 'as the free concessions are being continued the prospects of forming panchayats are most remote' and that 'little enthusiasm is shown in forming panchayats due to the expectation of the continuance of the concessions' and asked for orders whether the concessions were to be permanent or whether they might be withdrawn if abused. In reply he was informed that the constitution of panchayats must be subject to the continuance of the concessions and he was asked to report cases of abuse of the concessions where they were sufficiently serious to require a reconsideration of the orders.

3. In February 1931, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, wrote: "The concessions were greatly abused in nine reserves. In removing leaf manure, a large percentage has been at the expense of the classified species. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of villagers in making use of the concessions. They do not seem to make any distinction between unclassified, classified and reserve species. They collect whatever is handy for them and trees with lopped branches are a common sight in some of the reserves. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent such abuses. The drain of green leaf manure from all the reserves especially the coast reserved forests of Coondapur range is so great that a time will soon come when they cannot support this indefinite demand and the only solution opened to the Forest Department is to close one reserve after another in gradual succession so that the ryots may not feel the pinch all on a sudden."

In February 1931 the District Forest Officer, South Mangalore, reported: "The grant of these concessions was a mistake. It is found difficult to stop the abuses. Lopping of branches of all species has become a hobby. Often it is found that small poles of valuable classified and reserved trees and branches of trees are cut and left in the forest and removed afterwards as dry fuel. The people do not go to reserve forest for the leaves of shrubs and less valuable species. This they get from the Kumaki land and unreserves. I have own suspicion that to some extent at least our forest guards connive at this."

In January 1932 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported that "the ryots used the destructive methods of cutting of unclassified species and cutting of trees that are not unclassified for the collection of green leaf manure and fuel. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of the villagers in making use of the concessions. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent abuses."

In March 1932 the Conservator of Forests stated: "The reserves most concerned with concessions are of value now for production of fuel and for all the other normal functions of a reserve forest. The concessions are not necessary generally. If concessions are to stop we can easily set to work and make special plans for those particular places that must be provided with leaf manure from reserves."

In August 1932 the Chief Conservator reported :—" The exercise of the concessions, whether abused or not, spells complete ruin to the forests, and although there would result some good from the removal of evergreen undergrowth in certain of the reserves in the south of the district, such an operation cannot be carried out in this way. There is no doubt that the orders should be reconsidered in respect of 23 reserves." He therefore recommended that the concessions in North Mangalore might for the present be withdrawn in the case of the six much abused reserves which lie farthest from the sea and that the Veeracamba reserve in South Mangalore be closed to the concessions. The Collector of South Kanara stated :—" The present is not an appropriate time for the withdrawal of the concessions. Beginning from next year, they may be withdrawn gradually by degrees, commencing with the six much abused reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore division. There is bound to be a hue and cry when these concessions are withdrawn. I would suggest that the ryots who will be affected by the withdrawal be notified of the proposal at least four months ahead by beat of tom tom and publication in the gazette so that they may not make a grievance that the proposal took them by surprise." The Chief Conservator was informed that the Government did not propose to withdraw any of the concessions then and that the matter would be considered later on in the course of the year.

4. In October 1932 the Chief Conservator reopened the question and stated :—" In framing prescriptions for the areas dedicated to timber and fuel production the Working Plans Officer has suggested a compromise in laying down that areas should be closed to the concessions for a certain number of years after working. But while this may be given a trial in the case of the timber working circles, which in any case are not so vulnerable as other areas in that they are more remote from centres of manure leaf consumption, the prescription will be ineffective if applied to the fuel forests which lie nearer the more thickly inhabited country and which must be worked on a short rotation. If the utility of the areas is to be maintained, and they are required for the production of wood both for local use and for the supply of Mangalore, they must be closed altogether in the exercise of the concessions. A decision must now be taken as to what purposes these forests are to serve; they cannot serve both." He therefore asked for permission to close each coupe to the concessions as it is worked over and thereafter to keep it closed permanently. The Government thereupon ordered that beginning from 1933 the concessions should be gradually withdrawn and that a beginning should be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea and the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve in the South Mangalore division, and that the people affected should be given intimation of the proposed withdrawal by beat of tom tom in the villages and by publication in the District Gazette. The Chief Conservator was also informed that any representations that might be received against the withdrawal of the concessions should be submitted to Government and that pending the issue of orders on the representations the orders of withdrawal should be deferred.

5. Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn only from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in June 1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also.

6. In July 1933 the Chief Conservator reported that the working plan of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests, that the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore division, was of opinion that the concessions should be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and that the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator supported the proposal. Orders were issued at the end of August 1933 that the areas in which the concessions were in force should be divided into two classes—areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter the concessions might be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed, while in the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

7. As a result of the withdrawal of the concessions there were several interpellations in the Council and several representations were received by Government on the subject. The Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders' Association has submitted a long memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests, and the remarks of the Chief Conservator have been called for on the memorandum recently submitted by Mr. Mitchell.

and ~~it~~ was sent to the C.C.F. for remarks. Mr.Minchin, the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara ~~had~~ made a joint tour in the Coondapur Taluk of S.Kanara District in January 1934 to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions. Ample notice of the tour and the object of it was given to the ryots, and the President of the South Kanara Landholders Association was specially informed by the Collector of the proposed tour. The Collector and the Conservator have sent reports on the result of their joint tour. It will be seen from them that no complaints about forest grievances were received in several places, that while the ~~powerful of the~~ more influential ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim, and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though ~~they are~~ it is available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases; but ~~they~~ none were ~~not~~ brought to their notice, even though they asked for them ~~and that there is no use of making wholesale complaints~~. They ~~are, however, against~~ deprecate giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves. The Collector thinks that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. He thinks that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship. The Chief Conservator observes that it was impossible to find cases of real hardship, that they exist mainly in the imagination of interested ~~politicians~~ persons and that general complaints of this nature do not deserve serious attention. ~~With reference to 'A' at page above ante~~ The C.C.F. was ~~consulted~~ asked whether, in places where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the Department small enough to be controlled by the Departmental staff. The C.C. has reported that the suggestion has already been given

effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore Division, ~~by which~~ where the D.F.O. has made it a condition of the fuel contract that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at nominal rates. This would obviate the need for the employment of the Departmental staff. The C.C. considers that the results of the experiments should be watched by the local officers for some time.

8. The following points may be noted:-

(1) It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere, ~~that~~ the supply of green manure from reserve forests ~~will~~ is not ~~be~~ unlimited and ~~that~~ a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. ~~and that it is therefore better that~~ the ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves; but to grow their own green manure;

(2) the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs of less valuable species as they can get these from the kumaki land elsewhere but ~~that~~ they resort to reserved forests to get the leaves of valuable species such as Terminalia tomentosa and Terminalia paniculata;

(3) the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for the production of fuel and for the other normal functions of a reserve forest;

(4) unless the reserves are increased it will not be possible to provide for the increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, grazing, etc.

(5) the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form themselves into panchayats, and if they did not ~~form themselves into panchayats~~ do so they are themselves to blame;

(6) even ~~hereafter~~ now if the ryots formed themselves into panchayats it will be open to Government to withdraw the orders.

9. It should be mentioned that in only 13 reserves (six of them Sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore Division) have the concessions been withdrawn. These reserves are mentioned in the appended list. As regards the future ~~the exercise of~~ the concessions will be withdrawn in reserves where sylvicultural interests necessitate withdrawal. Withdrawal in other cases will be with the previous sanction of Government and after previous warning ~~xx~~ to the people. The reasons adduced by the

Conservator of the Circle and the Chief Conservator for the withdrawal of the concessions have been published and the reports of these officers have been placed on the tables of the house.

10. In the circumstances set forth in paras 7-~~10~~ 9 supra, it is submitted that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the hardships alleged to have been caused by the withdrawal of the concessions. The resolution may therefore be opposed.

RR
26.7.34

26.7.34
FN.
26.7.34. H.M.'s minute §3 on p. 23 N.F. of the L.F. states the case succinctly. A case sent to me by the CCF illustrating the alleged "hardships" is placed immediately below the N.F. in that file.

27/7

H.M.'s Law

I see no reason why the resolution with-drawal-forces + all their stages, as official orders are not yet passed

RR
29.7.34

Appendix I

The following 13 reserves in the South Kanara district were closed to the forest concessions:-

(a) Six of the much abused reserves of the Coondapur range of North Mangalore which lie farthest from the sea:-

(1) Guruvankata.
(2) Karnigadde.
(3) Kursegudde.
(4) Harkur.
(5) Chittur.
(6) Mudaragudde.

(b) Six sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore Divn.

(7) Hosabettu.
(8) Todar.
(9) Nire.
(10) Vorwady.
(11) Mavinguli.
(12) Kassankatti.

a(1) (~~ef~~ (13) Veeracamba (in South Mangalore)

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting to be held on the 1st August 1934.]

[SUBJECT.—*Forest—Concessions—South Kanara—Withdrawal—Hardships—Enquiry—Appointment of a committee.*]

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—

20 This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee to enquire into the hardships caused to ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara.

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(3) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with *Hopea ;* and

(4) the free removal of—

(*a*) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species ; and

(*b*) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

The then Conservator also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under ' Forest village system ' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayat successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

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5 Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn only from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in June 1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also.

6. In July 1933 the Chief Conservator reported that the working plan of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests, that the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore division, was of opinion that the concessions should be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and that the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator supported the proposal. Orders were issued at the end of August 1933 that the areas in which the concessions were in force should be divided into two classes—areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter the concessions might be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed, while in the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

7. As a result of the withdrawal of the concessions there were several interpellations in the Council and several representations were received by Government on the subject. The Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders' Association has submitted a long memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests, and this was sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests for remarks. Mr. Minchin, the

Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara, made a joint tour in the Coondapoor taluk of South Kanara district in January 1934 to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions. Ample notice of the tour and the object of it was given to the ryots, and the President of the South Kanara Landholders' Association was specially informed by the Collector of the proposed tour. The Collector and the Conservator have sent reports on the result of their joint tour. It will be seen from them that no complaints about forest grievances were received in several places, that while the more influential ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim, and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though it is available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases; but none were brought to their notice, even though they asked for them. They deprecate giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves. The Collector thinks that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. He thinks that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship. The Chief Conservator observes that it was impossible to find cases of real hardship, that they exist mainly in the imagination of interested persons and that general complaints of this nature do not deserve serious attention. The Chief Conservator of Forests was asked whether, in places where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the department small enough to be controlled by the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator has reported that the suggestion has already been given effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore division, where the District Forest Officer has made it a condition of the fuel contract that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at nominal rates. This would obviate the need for the employment of the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator considers that the results of the experiment should be watched by the local officers for some time.

8. The following points may be noted :—

(1) It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere. The supply of green manure from reserve forests is not unlimited and a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. The ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves; but to grow their own green manure;

(2) the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs of less valuable species as they can get these from the kumaki land elsewhere but they resort to reserved forests to get the leaves of valuable species such as *Terminalia tomentosa and Terminalia paniculata*;

(3) the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for the production of fuel and for the other normal functions of a reserve forest;

(4) unless the reserves are increased, it will not be possible to provide for the increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, grazing, etc.;

(5) the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form themselves into panchayats, and if they did not do so, they are themselves to blame;

(6) even now if the ryots form themselves into panchayats, it will be open to Government to withdraw the orders.

9. It should be mentioned that in only 13 reserves (six of them sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division) have the concessions been withdrawn. These reserves are mentioned in the appended list. As regards the future the concessions will be withdrawn in reserves where sylvicultural interests necessitate withdrawal. Withdrawal in other cases will be with the previous sanction of Government and after previous warning to the people. The reasons adduced by the Conservator of the circle and the Chief Conservator for the withdrawal of the concessions have been published and the reports of these officers have been placed on the tables of the House.

10. In the circumstances set forth in paragraphs 7–9 supra, it is submitted that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships alleged to have been caused by the withdrawal of the concessions. The resolution may therefore be opposed.

D.R.—26-7-34.

R. RAMASWAMI AYYANGAR—26-7-34.

C. A. HENDERSON—27-7-34.

These notes will be sufficient. I am for opposing the resolution in its present form and at this stage, as final orders are not yet passed.

K. V. [REDDI]—29-7-34.

APPENDIX I.

The following 13 reserves in the South Kanara district were closed to the forest concessions:—

(*a*) Six of the much abused reserves of the Coondapoor range of North Mangalore which lie farthest from the sea—

(1) Guruvankota.
(2) Karnigadde.
(3) Kursegudde.
(4) Harkur.
(5) Chittur.
(6) Mudaregudde.

(*b*) Six sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division—

(7) Hosabettu.
(8) Todar.
(9) Nire.
(10) Vorwadi.
(11) Mavinguli.
(12) Kassankatti.
(13) Veeracamba (in South Mangalore).

Law Dept. III-9—1,000—25-5-33.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
9-AUG1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE.

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

SUBJECT—No. 66-77 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 193

SUBMITTED that ~~two~~ an advance copies of this Resolution may be forwarded to the Dev Department. The Resolution has not yet been admitted.

Asst. 9/8/34

Dy 7/8/34

O. No. , *dated*

To

The Dev Department

Dev. Dept.

To Secy

Please see the resolution at P. 1 infra. Complete notes have already been prepared with ref. to a similar resolution balloted (but not reached) in the last session of the L. Council. The receipt of the final copy of the resolution ~~may be awaited~~ and the results of the ballot may be awaited.

9.8.34.

DR.
9.8.34.

Ballot — 15-10-34

Council Office
7-8-34

Resolution.

THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

66. Mr.U.C.Subramania Bhatt
67. " R.M.Palat
68. " V.T.Arasu
69. " M.D.T.Ranganatha Mudaliyar
70. " T.Narasa Reddi
71. " H.B.Ari Gowder
72. " A.Ramakrishna Reddi
73. " V.P.Narayanan Nambiyar
74. " Rai Sahib C.Kolanda Reddi
75. Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala Ramamurti
76. Mr.K.Pattabhiramayya
77. Mr.P.V.Krishnayya Chowdari.

This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a Committee to enquire into the hardships caused to the ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the Reserved Forests in South Kanara.

Krc.

11-8-34

Law Dept. III-9—1,000—25-5-33.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
11 AUG 1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

SUBJECT—No. 66-77 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 193

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Resolution may be forwarded to the Dev Department. The Resolution has been admitted.

Asst. 9/8/34

9/8/1934

U.O. No. , *dated*

To

The Dev Department

Council Office
7-8-34

11.8.34.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

66. Mr. U.C.Subramania Bhatt
67. " R.M.Palat
68. " V.T.Arasu
69. " M.D.T.Ranganatha Mudaliyar
70. " T.Narasa Reddi
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72. " A.Ramakrishna Reddi
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74. " Rai Sahib C.Kolanda Reddi
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76. Mr.K.Pattabhiramayya
77. Mr.P.V.Krishnayya Chowdari.

This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a Committee to enquire into the hardships caused to the ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the Reserved Forests in South Kanara.

Krc.

Submitted to Am Co.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

24th Oct.

[For the meeting to be held on the ~~1st August~~ 1934.]

[SUBJECT.—*Forest—Concessions—South Kanara—Withdrawal—Hardships—Enquiry—Appointment of a committee.*]

Ramakrishna Reddi

Mr. A. ~~B. SHETTY~~ :—

This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee to enquire into the hardships caused to ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara.

The following concessions were given to the ryots of the South Kanara district in 1922 by the Chief Conservator of Forests :—

(1) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings;

(2) in the reserves near the coast, the clearing of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings;

(3) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with *Hopea;* and

(4) the free removal of–

(*a*) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species; and

(*b*) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

The then Conservator also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under 'Forest village system' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayat successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

2. Since then the concessions were abused by the ryots and the Forest officers recommended that they might be withdrawn. The following are extracts from some of the reports :—

> In his report on the working of the concessions for the year *1924–25*, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported in August 1925 that the concessions were *abused* in Kursegudde, Herur, Darlegudde, Mudaregudde, Kasankatte and Chittur reserves of Coondapoor range and in Todar and Hosabettu reserves of Mangalore range and opined that the continuance of the concessions demanded serious consideration, especially in the reserves of Coondapoor range. The Conservator then reported that it seemed advisable to withdraw the concessions in regard to the removal of green leaf in respect of the six reserves and to issue a general warning that the concessions would be withdrawn if abused again.

Mr. Shetty complained to Government in May 1928 that the Conservator warned the ryots that the concessions would be withdrawn if they continued to abuse the privileges. On this the Chief Conservator reported as follows :—

> The privileges were granted on the condition that they should not be abused. There is nothing improper in the warning issued by the Conservator, but it is disquieting to observe that the people already regard the conditional concessions made in the light of rights and that they do not recognize that they should observe the conditions.

In March 1929 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, stated: "The concessions have been abused to a very serious extent in Herur reserve and much abused in eleven other reserves, while two other reserves have suffered to some extent in patches. In removing green leaf a good percentage of the cutting has been at the expense of the reserved and classified species. Trees are hacked in such a way as to reduce them in size. Main stems sometimes up to 10 inches to 18 inches in girth are hacked off. The side branches and leaves are dropped and taken away as leaf manure and the large billets and sticks left to dry to be removed later as dry fuel."

> During the season in which leaf manure, etc., is in demand, hundreds of women and girls, men and boys, swarm over the reserves starting their operations, often before daybreak. Perpetration of actual abuses can be detected only fortuitously, for the forest vegetation conceals what is going on and affords ample hiding room for those who, when illegally employed, are approached by the forest guard. The forest guard is sometimes afraid to approach the offenders lest he should get a thrashing.

In January 1930 the Chief Conservator reported: "All authorities are agreed that the grant of the concessions was ill-advised and short-sighted and although, by extending, from time to time, the period within which the concessions might be made use of and by repeated warnings, no effort has been spared to give the people every chance of showing that the concessions could be worked successfully, it has long been evident that they must be put an end to.

The Collector of South Kanara was of opinion that a clear case had been made out for the withdrawal of the concessions. The Government, however, on a consideration of the report issued orders in June 1930 that no change ' in the existing practice in respect of removal of green leaf manure from reserved forests is called for ' and that ' the existing concessions in the matter of the clearance of the other classes of undergrowth should continue without modification.'

In June 1930 the Chief Conservator reported that ' as the free concessions are being continued the prospects of forming panchayats are most remote ' and that ' little enthusiasm is shown in forming panchayats due to the expectation of the continuance of the concessions ' and asked for orders whether the concessions were to be permanent or whether they might be withdrawn if abused. In reply he was informed that the constitution of panchayats must be subject to the continuance of the concessions and he was asked to report cases of abuse of the concessions where they were sufficiently serious to require a reconsideration of the orders.

3. In February 1931, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, wrote: "The concessions were greatly abused in nine reserves. In removing leaf manure, a large percentage has been at the expense of the classified species. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of villagers in making use of the concessions. They do not seem to make any distinction between unclassified, classified and reserve species. They collect whatever is handy for them and trees with lopped branches are a common sight in some of the reserves. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent such abuses. The drain of green leaf manure from all the reserves especially the coast reserved forests of Coondapoor range is so great that a time will soon come when they cannot support this indefinite demand and the only solution opened to the Forest Department is to close one reserve after another in gradual succession so that the ryots may not feel the pinch all on a sudden."

In February 1931 the District Forest Officer, South Mangalore, reported: "The grant of these concessions was a mistake. It is found difficult to stop the abuses. Lopping of branches of all species has become a hobby. Often it is found that small poles of valuable classified and reserved trees and branches of trees are cut and left in the forest nd removed afterwards as dry fuel. The people do not go to reserve forest for the leaves of shrubs and less valuable species. This they get from the Kumaki land and unreserves. I have my own suspicion that to some extent at least our forest guards connive at this."

[illegible]anuary 1932 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported that "the ryots used the destructive methods of cutting of unclassified species and cutting of trees that are not unclassified for the collection of green leaf manure and fuel. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of the villagers in making use of the concessions. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent abuses."

In March 1932 the Conservator of Forests stated: "The reserves most concerned with concessions are of value now for production of fuel and for all the other normal functions of a reserve forest. The concessions are not necessary generally. If concessions are to stop we can easily set to work and make special plans for those particular places that must be provided with leaf manure from reserves."

In August 1932 the Chief Conservator reported :— " The exercise of the concessions, whether abused or not, spells complete ruin to the forests, and although there would result some good from the removal of evergreen undergrowth in certain of the reserves in the south of the district, such an operation cannot be carried out in this way. There is no doubt that the orders should be reconsidered in respect of 23 reserves." He therefore recommended that the concessions in North Mangalore might for the present be withdrawn in the case of the six much abused reserves which lie farthest from the sea and that the Veeracamba reserve in South Mangalore be closed to the concessions. The Collector of South Kanara stated :—" The present is not an appropriate time for the withdrawal of the concessions. Beginning from next year, they may be withdrawn gradually by degrees, commencing with the six much abused reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore division. There is bound to be a hue and cry when these concessions are withdrawn. I would suggest that the ryots who will be affected by the withdrawal be notified of the proposal at least four months ahead by beat of tom tom and publication in the gazette so that they may not make a grievance that the proposal took them by surprise." The Chief Conservator was informed that the Government did not propose to withdraw any of the concessions then and that the matter would be considered later on in the course of the year.

4. In October 1932 the Chief Conservator reopened the question and stated :—" In framing prescriptions for the areas dedicated to timber and fuel production the Working Plans Officer has suggested a compromise in laying down that areas should be closed to the concessions for a certain number of years after working. But while this may be given a trial in the case of the timber working circles, which in any case are not so vulnerable as other areas in that they are more remote from centres of manure leaf consumption, the prescription will be ineffective if applied to the fuel forests which lie nearer the more thickly inhabited country and which must be worked on a short rotation. If the utility of the areas is to be maintained, and they are required for the production of wood both for local use and for the supply of Mangalore, they must be closed altogether in the exercise of the concessions. A decision must now be taken as to what purposes these forests are to serve; they cannot serve both." He therefore asked for permission to close each coupe to the concessions as it is worked over and thereafter to keep it closed permanently. The Government thereupon ordered that beginning from 1933 the concessions should be gradually withdrawn and that a beginning should be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea and the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve in the South Mangalore division, and that the people affected should be given intimation of the proposed withdrawal by beat of tom tom in the villages and by publication in the District Gazette. The Chief Conservator was also informed that any representations that might be received against the withdrawal of the concessions should be submitted to Government and that pending the issue of orders on the representations the orders of withdrawal should be deferred.

5. Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn only from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in June 1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also.

6. In July 1933 the Chief Conservator reported that the working plan of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests, that the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore division, was of opinion that the concessions should be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and that the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator supported the proposal. Orders were issued at the end of August 1933 that the areas in which the concessions were in force should be divided into two classes—areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter the concessions might be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed, while in the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

7. As a result of the withdrawal of the concessions there were several interpellations in the Council and several representations were received by Government on the subject. The Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders' Association has submitted a long memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests, and this was sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests for remarks. Mr. Minchin, the

Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara, made a joint tour in the Coondapoor taluk of South Kanara district in January 1934 to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions. Ample notice of the tour and the object of it was given to the ryots, and the President of the South Kanara Landholders' Association was specially informed by the Collector of the proposed tour. The Collector and the Conservator have sent reports on the result of their joint tour. It will be seen from them that no complaints about forest grievances were received in several places, that while the more influential ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim, and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though it is available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases; but none were brought to their notice, even though they asked for them. They deprecate giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves. The Collector thinks that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. He thinks that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship. The Chief Conservator observes that it was impossible to find cases of real hardship, that they exist mainly in the imagination of interested persons and that general complaints of this nature do not deserve serious attention. The Chief Conservator of Forests was asked whether, in places where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the department small enough to be controlled by the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator has reported that the suggestion has already been given effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore division, where the District Forest Officer has made it a condition of the fuel contract that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at nominal rates. This would obviate the need for the employment of the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator considers that the results of the experiment should be watched by the local officers for some time.

8. The following points may be noted :—

(1) It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere. The supply of green manure from reserve forests is not unlimited and a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. The ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves; but to grow their own green manure;

(2) the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs of less valuable species as they can get these from the kumaki land elsewhere but they resort to reserved forests to get the leaves of valuable species such as *Terminalia tomentosa and Terminalia paniculata*;

(3) the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for the production of fuel and for the other normal functions of a reserve forest;

(4) unless the reserves are increased, it will not be possible to provide for the increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, grazing, etc.;

(5) the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form themselves into panchayats, and if they did not do so, they are themselves to blame;

(6) even now if the ryots form themselves into panchayats, it will be open to Government to withdraw the orders.

9. It should be mentioned that in only 11 reserves (six of them sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division) have the concessions been withdrawn. These reserves are mentioned in the appended list. As regards the future the concessions will be withdrawn in reserves where sylvicultural interests necessitate withdrawal. Withdrawal in other cases will be with the previous sanction of Government and after previous warning to the people. The reasons adduced by the Conservator of the circle and the Chief Conservator for the withdrawal of the concessions have been published and the reports of these officers have been placed on the tables of the House.

10. In the circumstances set forth in paragraphs 7–9 supra, it is submitted that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships alleged to have been caused by the withdrawal of the concessions. The resolution may therefore be opposed.

G.N.
19.10.34

R. Ramaswami Ayyangar
19.10.34

C. A. Henderson
20.10.34

K.V. [Reddi]
23.10.34

APPENDIX I.

The following 17 reserves in the South Kanara district were closed to the forest concessions:-

(a) 9 of the much abused reserves in North Mangalore.

(1) Guruvankota.
(2) Karnigadde.
(3) Kurseguddé.
(4) Harkur.
(5) Chittur.
(6) Mudaregudde.
(7) Talaburane.
(8) Jarvathukadu.
(9) Marinkodlu.

(b) 2 Reserves in South Mangalore.

(10) Veeracamba.
(11) Mandekole.

(c) Six sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division.

(12) Hosabettu.
(13) Todar.
(14) Nire.
(15) Vorwadi.
(16) Nevinguli.
(17) Kassankatti.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

(For the meeting to be held on the ~~23rd~~ 24th October 1934)

(Subject - Forest - concessions - South Kanara - withdrawal - hardships - enquiry - appointment of a committee)

Messrs. U.C. Subramania Bhatt, R.M. Palat, V.T. Arasu, M.D.T. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, T. Narasa Reddi, H.B. Ari Gowder, A. Ramakrishna Reddi, V.P. Narayanan Nambiyar, Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala Ramamurti, K. Pattabhiramayya and P.V. Krishnayya Chowdari.

This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee to enquire into the hardships caused to ryots by the withdrawal of concessions in the reserved forests in South Kanara.

The following concessions were given to the ryots of the South Kanara district in 1922 by the Chief Conservator of Forests :—

(1) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings;

(2) in the reserves near the coast, the clearing of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings;

(3) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with *Hopea;* and

(4) the free removal of—

(*a*) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species; and

(*b*) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

The then Conservator also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under 'Forest village system' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayat successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

2. Since then the concessions were abused by the ryots and the Forest officers recommended that they might be withdrawn. The following are extracts from some of the reports :—

> In his report on the working of the concessions for the year *1924–25*, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported in August 1925 that the concessions were *abused* in Kursegudde, Herur, Darlegudde, Mudaregudde, Kasankatte and Chittur reserves of Coondapoor range and in Todar and Hosabettu reserves of Mangalore range and opined that the continuance of the concessions demanded serious consideration, especially in the reserves of Coondapoor range. The Conservator then reported that it seemed advisable to withdraw the concessions in regard to the removal of green leaf in respect of the six reserves and to issue a general warning that the concessions would be withdrawn if abused again.

Mr. Shetty complained to Government in May 1928 that the Conservator warned the ryots that the concessions would be withdrawn if they continued to abuse the privileges. On this the Chief Conservator reported as follows :—

> The privileges were granted on the condition that they should not be abused. There is nothing improper in the warning issued by the Conservator, but it is disquieting to observe that the people already regard the conditional concessions made in the light of rights and that they do not recognize that they should observe the conditions.

In March 1929 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, stated: "The concessions have been abused to a very serious extent in Herur reserve and much abused in eleven other reserves, while two other reserves have suffered to some extent in patches. In removing green leaf a good percentage of the cutting has been at the expense of the reserved and classified species. Trees are hacked in such a way as to reduce them in size. Main stems sometimes up to 10 inches to 18 inches in girth are hacked off. The side branches and leaves are dropped and taken away as leaf manure and the large billets and sticks left to dry to be removed later as dry fuel."

During the season in which leaf manure, etc., is in demand, hundreds of women and girls, men and boys, swarm over the reserves starting their operations, often before daybreak. Perpetration of actual abuses can be detected only fortuitously, for the forest vegetation conceals what is going on and affords ample hiding room for those who, when illegally employed, are approached by the forest guard. The forest guard is sometimes afraid to approach the offenders lest he should get a thrashing.

In January 1930 the Chief Conservator reported: "All authorities are agreed that the grant of the concessions was ill-advised and short-sighted and although, by extending, from time to time, the period within which the concessions might be made use of and by repeated warnings, no effort has been spared to give the people every chance of showing that the concessions could be worked successfully, it has long been evident that they must be put an end to."

The Collector of South Kanara was of opinion that a clear case had been made out for the withdrawal of the concessions. The Government, however, on a consideration of the report issued orders in June 1930 that no change 'in the existing practice in respect of removal of green leaf manure from reserved forests is called for' and that 'the existing concessions in the matter of the clearance of the other classes of undergrowth should continue without modification.'

In June 1930 the Chief Conservator reported that 'as the free concessions are being continued the prospects of forming panchayats are most remote' and that 'little enthusiasm is shown in forming panchayats due to the expectation of the continuance of the concessions' and asked for orders whether the concessions were to be permanent or whether they might be withdrawn if abused. In reply he was informed that the constitution of panchayats must be subject to the continuance of the concessions and he was asked to report cases of abuse of the concessions where they were sufficiently serious to require a reconsideration of the orders.

3. In February 1931, the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, wrote: "The concessions were greatly abused in nine reserves. In removing leaf manure, a large percentage has been at the expense of the classified species. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of villagers in making use of the concessions. They do not seem to make any distinction between unclassified, classified and reserve species. They collect whatever is handy for them and trees with lopped branches are a common sight in some of the reserves. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent such abuses. The drain of green leaf manure from all the reserves especially the coast reserved forests of Coondapoor range is so great that a time will soon come when they cannot support this indefinite demand and the only solution opened to the Forest Department is to close one reserve after another in gradual succession so that the ryots may not feel the pinch all on a sudden."

In February 1931 the District Forest Officer, South Mangalore, reported: "The grant of these concessions was a mistake. It is found difficult to stop the abuses. Lopping of branches of all species has become a hobby. Often it is found that small poles of valuable classified and reserved trees and branches of trees are cut and left in the forest and removed afterwards as dry fuel. The people do not go to reserve forest for the leaves of shrubs and less valuable species. This they get from the Kumaki land and unreserves. I have my own suspicion that to some extent at least our forest guards connive at this."

In January 1932 the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, reported that "the ryots used the destructive methods of cutting of unclassified species and cutting of trees that are not unclassified for the collection of green leaf manure and fuel. No appreciable improvement is noticeable in the conduct of the villagers in making use of the concessions. It is not possible for a single guard to prevent abuses."

In March 1932 the Conservator of Forests stated: "The reserves most concerned with concessions are of value now for production of fuel and for all the other normal functions of a reserve forest. The concessions are not necessary generally. If concessions are to stop we can easily set to work and make special plans for those particular places that must be provided with leaf manure from reserves."

In August 1932 the Chief Conservator reported :— " The exercise of the concessions, whether abused or not, spells complete ruin to the forests, and although there would result some good from the removal of evergreen undergrowth in certain of the reserves in the south of the district, such an operation cannot be carried out in this way. There is no doubt that the orders should be reconsidered in respect of 23 reserves." He therefore recommended that the concessions in North Mangalore might for the present be withdrawn in the case of the six much abused reserves which lie farthest from the sea and that the Veeracamba reserve in South Mangalore be closed to the concessions. The Collector of South Kanara stated :—" The present is not an appropriate time for the withdrawal of the concessions. Beginning from next year, they may be withdrawn gradually by degrees, commencing with the six much abused reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore division. There is bound to be a hue and cry when these concessions are withdrawn. I would suggest that the ryots who will be affected by the withdrawal be notified of the proposal at least four months ahead by beat of tom tom and publication in the gazette so that they may not make a grievance that the proposal took them by surprise." The Chief Conservator was informed that the Government did not propose to withdraw any of the concessions then and that the matter would be considered later on in the course of the year.

4. In October 1932 the Chief Conservator reopened the question and stated :—" In framing prescriptions for the areas dedicated to timber and fuel production the Working Plans Officer has suggested a compromise in laying down that areas should be closed to the concessions for a certain number of years after working. But while this may be given a trial in the case of the timber working circles, which in any case are not so vulnerable as other areas in that they are more remote from centres of manure leaf consumption, the prescription will be ineffective if applied to the fuel forests which lie nearer the more thickly inhabited country and which must be worked on a short rotation. If the utility of the areas is to be maintained, and they are required for the production of wood both for local use and for the supply of Mangalore, they must be closed altogether in the exercise of the concessions. A decision must now be taken as to what purposes these forests are to serve; they cannot serve both." He therefore asked for permission to close each coupe to the concessions as it is worked over and thereafter to keep it closed permanently. The Government thereupon ordered that beginning from 1933 the concessions should be gradually withdrawn and that a beginning should be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea and the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve in the South Mangalore division, and that the people affected should be given intimation of the proposed withdrawal by beat of tom tom in the villages and by publication in the District Gazette. The Chief Conservator was also informed that any representations that might be received against the withdrawal of the concessions should be submitted to Government and that pending the issue of orders on the representations the orders of withdrawal should be deferred.

5. Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn only from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in June 1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also

6. In July 1933 the Chief Conservator reported that the working plan of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests, that the District Forest Officer, North Mangalore division, was of opinion that the concessions should be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and that the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator supported the proposal. Orders were issued at the end of August 1933 that the areas in which the concessions were in force should be divided into two classes—areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter, the concessions might be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed, while in the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned

7. As a result of the withdrawal of the concessions there were several interpellations in the Council and several representations were received by Government on the subject. The Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders' Association has submitted a long memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests, and this was sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests for remarks. Mr. Minchin, the

Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara, made a joint tour in the Coondapoor taluk of South Kanara district in January 1934 to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions. Ample notice of the tour and the object of it was given to the ryots, and the President of the South Kanara Landholders' Association was specially informed by the Collector of the proposed tour. The Collector and the Conservator have sent reports on the result of their joint tour. It will be seen from them that no complaints about forest grievances were received in several places, that while the more influential ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim, and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though it is available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases; but none were brought to their notice, even though they asked for them. They deprecate giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves. The Collector thinks that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. He thinks that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship. The Chief Conservator observes that it was impossible to find cases of real hardship, that they exist mainly in the imagination of interested persons and that general complaints of this nature do not deserve serious attention. The Chief Conservator of Forests was asked whether, in places where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the department small enough to be controlled by the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator has reported that the suggestion has already been given effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore division, where the District Forest Officer has made it a condition of the fuel contract that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at nominal rates. This would obviate the need for the employment of the departmental staff. The Chief Conservator considers that the results of the experiment should be watched by the local officers for some time.

8. The following points may be noted :—

(1) It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere. The supply of green manure from reserve forests is not unlimited and a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. The ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves; but to grow their own green manure;

(2) the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs of less valuable species as they can get these from the kumaki land elsewhere but they resort to reserved forests to get the leaves of valuable species such as *Terminalia tomentosa and Terminalia paniculata*;

(3) the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for the production of fuel and for the other normal functions of a reserve forest;

(4) unless the reserves are increased, it will not be possible to provide for the increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, grazing, etc.;

(5) the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form themselves into panchayats, and if they did not do so, they are themselves to blame;

(6) even now if the ryots form themselves into panchayats, it will be open to Government to withdraw the orders.

9. It should be mentioned that in only ~~13~~ 11 reserves (~~six of them~~ besides sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division), have the concessions been withdrawn. These 17 reserves are mentioned in the appended list. ~~As regards the~~ In future the concessions will be withdrawn in reserves where sylvicultural interests necessitate withdrawal. Withdrawal in other cases will be with the previous sanction of Government and after previous warning to the people. The reasons adduced by the Conservator of the circle and the Chief Conservator for the withdrawal of the concessions have been published and the reports of these officers have been placed on the tables of the House.

10. In the circumstances set forth in paragraphs 7–9 supra, it is submitted that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships alleged to have been caused by the withdrawal of the concessions. The resolution may therefore be opposed.

APPENDIX I.

The following 17 reserves in the South Kanara district were closed to the forest concessions:—

(a) (a) Six of the much abused reserves of the Coondapoor range of North Mangalore which lie furthest from the sea—

(1) Guruvankota.
(2) Karnigadde.
(3) Kursegudde.
(4) Harkur.
(5) Chittur.
(6) Mudaregudde.

(b) (b) Six sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division—

(7) Hosabettu.
(8) Todar.
(9) Nire.
(10) Vorwadi.
(11) Mavinguli.
(12) Kassankatti.
(13) Veeracamba (in South Mangalore).

Development Department.

To A.S.

Please see the Legislative Council Resolutions No. 66 to 77 at pages 1-4 ante.

2. A resolution on the restoration of the Forest concessions in South Kanara was tabled by Mr. A.B. Shetty for the meeting held on 1-2-1934 but the resolution was not reached. Again he tabled a resolution for the meeting held on 1-8-34 for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships caused by the withdrawal of the concessions in South Kanara. This resolution also was not reached.

3. Now the Hon. Member Mr. U.C. Subramania Bhatt and 11 others propose to move the same resolution for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships caused by the withdrawal of the concessions in South Kanara. The note prepared on the last occasion is submitted ~~and it calls for no further additions~~ with slight alterations.

4. The case may be submitted to H.M. for orders whether any further information should be collected. It is presumed that H.M. will take charge of the resolution.

H.M.C. 3

29.10.34.

2nd Resolution was not reached

29.10.34

2-8-16

Delhi.

The resolution was not reached - The papers may now be laid and file with Jo 11 Debates (D)

16-8-32.

PL
2-11-32

Dwt
24 Mar

Cyclone